

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

August 20, 2003

For the concise explanation of relevance for the non-English documents, the Examiner is referred to the English Abstracts attached hereto. Applicants note that JP 6-45242 corresponds with U.S. Patent No. 4,657,631 and JP 3143307 corresponds with U.S. Patent No. 5,478,606.

The Examiner's attention is also directed to the following U.S. Applications:

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>FILING DATE</u>	<u>GROUP ART UNIT</u>
10/615,302	07/09/03	N.Y.A.
10/615,305	07/09/03	N.Y.A.
10/615,143	07/09/03	N.Y.A.

A copy of each cited Application is enclosed.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,




Attorney for Applicants

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FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary)				ATTY DOCKET NO. 03500.017372.		APPLICATION NO. 10/615,289	
				APPLICANT MASAHIKO KUBOTA ET AL.			
				FILING DATE July 9, 2003		GROUP N.Y.A.	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		4,657,631	04/14/87	Noguchi	156	655	
		5,478,606	12/26/95	Ohkuma et al.	427	555	
		12000					
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
	JP	2002-326515		JAPAN			Abstract
	JP	3010089		JAPAN			Abstract
	JP	6-45242		JAPAN			Abstract & corresponding U.S. Patent No. 4,657,631
	JP	3143307		JAPAN			Abstract & corresponding U.S. Patent No. 5,478,606
OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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